See page 6 for Lawrence's biography

AEC

UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
Washington 25, D. C.

No. 1208
Tel. ST 3-8000
Ext. 307

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(Tuesday, October 29, 1957)

SECOND ENRICO FERMI AWARD CONFERRED ON DOCTOR ERNEST O. LAWRENCE

Dr. Ernest O. Lawrence, noted scientist and director of the University of California Radiation Laboratory at Berkeley, California, has been named to receive the Atomic Energy Commission's Enrico Fermi Award for 1957.

The Award, consisting of a medal, a citation and $50,000, was made to Dr. Lawrence for his invention and development of the cyclotron and his other contributions to the development of atomic energy and nuclear physics. It was made on the recommendation of the General Advisory Committee of the Atomic Energy Commission and approved by President Eisenhower.

The presentation will be made on December 2, the fifteenth anniversary of the day when the late Dr. Enrico Fermi, after whom the Award was named, and his associates proved that nuclear fission could be self-sustained and controlled. This discovery led to the development of the first atom bomb. The time and place of the presentation to Dr. Lawrence will be announced later.

The citation of Dr. Lawrence reads as follows:

> "The President of the United States of America and the Atomic Energy Commission, pursuant to the authority of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 for the granting of awards for especially meritorious contributions to the development, use or control of atomic energy, grant The Enrico Fermi Award to Ernest O. Lawrence, for his invention and development of the cyclotron and for his many other contributions in nuclear physics and atomic energy."

In its letter of recommendation to Lewis L. Strauss, Chairman of the Commission, the Advisory Committee said:

(more)

"Dr. Lawrence is a pioneer in the field of nuclear physics, and he has achieved world-wide recognition as a truly great leader in that field.

"If one of his contributions is to be singled out as having paramount importance, it is the invention, in 1929, of the cyclotron, and its subsequent development into a most effective tool for nuclear research. Without the cyclotron, it is hard to see how the development of nuclear physics to its present advanced state could have taken place.

"Dr. Lawrence was among those who at an early date recognized the potentialities of nuclear fission as an energy source, and he had a great influence in furthering this development. His enthusiasm and encouragement, both as a committee member and on his own initiative, were widely felt. His own laboratory at the University of California was turned over to the development of the electromagnetic process for separation of the uranium isotopes, leading to the first production of Uranium 235 in large quantities.

"In these developments, Dr. Lawrence has played a leading role as a physicist, teacher and organizer. His inspiring leadership has resulted in the establishment of the University of California Radiation Laboratory, one of the great laboratories in the world today in the field of nuclear physics and a model for many other great laboratories. This laboratory has been for many years a center of research, and perhaps more importantly, of training for young men who have gained not only knowledge but some part of Dr. Lawrence's enthusiasm in the advance of nuclear science."

Dr. Lawrence is the second recipient of the Enrico Fermi Award. The first was bestowed on the late Dr. John von Neumann, noted scientist and member of the Atomic Energy Commission, in April of last year.

One previous award was made under the 1954 Act. In November, 1954, Dr. Fermi was honored by the Advisory Committee. While choosing Dr. von Neumann to receive the honor in 1956, the Committee decided that the Award should henceforth be named after Dr. Fermi.

Section 157 b. (3) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, which authorizes the Award, reads in part as follows:

"The Commission may also, upon the recommendation of the General Advisory Committee and with the approval

of the President, grant an award for any especially meritorious contribution to the development, use, or control of atomic energy."

* * *

Attached for the further information of newsmen are:

I. General Advisory Committee statement on the accomplishments of Dr. Ernest O. Lawrence which led to the recommendation that the Award be conferred on him.

II. Biographical data on Doctor Ernest O. Lawrence.

- 30 -

102957

Attachments

I. LETTER FROM THE GENERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE CHAIRMAN, ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION RECOMMENDING CONFERRAL OF THE ENRICO FERMI AWARD ON DR. ERNEST O. LAWRENCE

GENERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TO THE
U. S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

September 11, 1957

The Honorable Lewis L. Strauss
Chairman of the
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Strauss:

This letter contains the formal recommendation of the General Advisory Committee for the Enrico Fermi Award for 1957, which was communicated orally to the members of the Commission available at the time, and to the General Manager, at the GAC meeting held on July 11, 1957.

The unanimous recommendation of the General Advisory Committee is that the Award for 1957 be made to Dr. Ernest O. Lawrence. Dr. Lawrence is a pioneer in the field of nuclear physics, and he has achieved worldwide recognition as a truly great leader in that field.

If one of his contributions is to be singled out as having paramount importance, it is the invention, in 1929, of the cyclotron, and its subsequent development into a most effective tool for nuclear research. Without the cyclotron, it is hard to see how the development of nuclear physics to its present advanced state could have taken place.

Dr. Lawrence was among those who at an early date recognized the potentialities of nuclear fission as an energy source, and he had a great influence in furthering this development. His enthusiasm and encouragement, both as a committee member and on his own initiative, were widely felt. His own laboratory at the University of California was turned over to the development of the electromagnetic process for separation of the uranium isotopes, leading to the first production of Uranium 235 in large quantities.

In these developments, Dr. Lawrence has played a leading role as a physicist, teacher, and organizer. His inspiring leadership has resulted in the establishment of the University of

(more)

California Radiation Laboratory, one of the great laboratories in the world today in the field of nuclear physics and a model for many other great laboratories. This laboratory has been for many years a center of research, and perhaps more importantly, of training for young men who have gained not only knowledge but some part of Dr. Lawrence's enthusiasm in the advance of nuclear science.

Enclosed is a suggestion for the wording of the actual citation. This wording has not been reviewed by the General Advisory Committee, and is simply a personal recommendation for consideration by the Commission and by the President.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

Warren C. Johnson
Chairman

(more)

II. BIOGRAPHICAL DATA - DR. ERNEST O. LAWRENCE

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA -- DR. ERNEST O. LAWRENCE

Dr. Ernest Orlando Lawrence was born on August 8, 1901, at Canton, South Dakota, the son of Carl Gustavus and Gunda (Jacobson) Lawrence.

He was a student at St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn., 1918-19; received his A.B., University of South Dakota, 1922; A.M., University of Minnesota, 1923; studied at University of Chicago, 1923-24; Ph. D., Yale University, 1925.

Honorary Degrees: Sc. D.: University of South Dakota, 1936; Princeton University, Yale University, Stevens Institute of Technology, 1937; Harvard University, University of Chicago, Rutgers University, 1941; McGill University, Montreal, 1946; University of British Columbia, 1947; University of Southern California, University of San Francisco, 1949; LL. D.: University of Michigan, 1938; University of Pennsylvania, 1942; University of Glasgow, 1951.

Dr. Lawrence was a research fellow at Yale University, 1925-27; assistant professor of physics, 1927-28; associate professor of physics, University of California, 1928-30, professor since 1930, and Director, Radiation Laboratory since 1936.

He was awarded the Elliott Cresson Medal, Franklin Institute, 1937; Research Corporation Prize and Plaque, 1937; Comstock Prize, National Academy of Sciences, 1937; Hughes Medal, Royal Society (England), 1937; Nobel Prize in Physics, 1939; Duddell Medal, The Physical Society, 1940; William K. Dunn Award, American Legion, 1940; Holley Medal, American Society of Mechanical Engineers, 1942; Medal for Merit, 1946; Medal of Trasenster, 1947; Officer de la Legion d'Honneur, 1948; Faraday Medal, 1952; Annual Award, American Cancer Society, 1954.

In 1947 Dr. Lawrence was elected to the Foreign Scholarships Board. He was a member of the Solvay Conference, Brussels, 1933; and was elected to (Honorary) membership in the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences, 1943; Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, 1952; Royal Irish Academy, 1948; Member of the Board of Trustees, Carnegie Institution of Washington, 1944.

He is a Fellow, American Physical Society, American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Academy of Arts and Sciences; Honorary Fellow, Royal Society of Edinburgh, The Physical Society and the Indian Academy of Science.

(more)

He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, American Philosophical Society, Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi and Gamma Alpha. Clubs: Faculty, Bohemian (Hon.). Contributor to Proceedings, National Academy of Sciences and Physical Review. Research in nuclear physics and applications of physics to biology and medicine.

Dr. Lawrence is one of the world's leading authorities on nuclear physics, structures of atoms, the atomic nucleus, transmutation of atoms and the application of physics to biology and medicine. One of his most important contributions to science was the invention, in 1929, of the cyclotron, and its development into an efficient research tool.

In 1932 Dr. Lawrence married Mary Kimberly Blumer. They have six children: John Eric, Margaret Bradley, Mary Kimberly, Robert Don, Barbara Hundale and Susan.

The family resides in Berkeley, California.